

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 below by deleting items marked with a strikeout (i.e. ~~patent~~) or brackets (i.e., [patent]) and adding items marked with an underline (i.e. patent).

1. (Currently Amended) An emergency stairway escape apparatus ~~that permits~~ adapted to permit people in wheelchairs to egress a multistory building using a ~~conventional~~ stairway comprising:
- a ramp platform of sufficient width to cover at least half of each stair tread and of sufficient length to span from an upper landing to a lower landing of said stairway;
 - a latch mounted to an outward wall of the stairway for impinging said ramp platform in a stowed position and releasing said ramp platform to a deployed position;
 - a plurality of hinges for affixing an edge of said ramp platform to ~~said~~ the outward wall; and
 - a motion retarding reel mounted to an upper landing wall, said reel comprising high strength cable outwardly dischargeable in a linear manner and self-retracting, said cable comprising a hook attachable to a wheelchair, said reel controlling ascent and descent along said ramp platform.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said ramp platform further comprises a lip edge to prevent an object with wheels from departing said ramp platform and causing damage and injury.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said reel outwardly discharges said cable independent of the weight of said wheelchair and occupant.